

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
WIRELESSLY NETWORKED DISTRIBUTED RESOURCE USAGE  
FOR DATA GATHERING

5 ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

10 A method and system comprising one or more computer servers and one  
or more electronic devices having a method for gathering, collecting, and  
supplying geographically distributed data. The computer system may be a palm-  
sized computer system or personal digital assistant (PDA). The present invention  
15 provides four modes of collecting data: (1) gathering geographically distributed  
data in a server-commanded mode, accomplished by a computer server  
commanding electronic devices to capture and transmit data, such that the user  
of the electronic device need not participate in the capturing or transmitting, and  
is, therefore transparent to the user; (2) collecting user responses in a server-  
initiated mode, accomplished by a computer server requesting the user of an  
20 electronic device to input data, the data then transmitted to the server;  
(3) supplying geographically distributed data in a user-initiated mode,  
accomplished by a user capturing data with an electronic device, the electronic  
device transmitting the data to a computer server, and the computer server then  
storing, selling, or publishing the data; and (4) gathering a body of  
geographically distributed data in a user-controlled mode, accomplished by the  
user of an electronic device instructing his electronic device to automatically  
collect input data, the data then transmitted to a computer server.